## Before the State of South Carolina Department of Insurance

In the matter of:	)	
	)	SCDOI File Number 04-0241
Dwayne K. Stephens	)	
129 Jigsaw Road	)	Consent Order
Summerville, S.C. 29485	)	Imposing Administrative Penalty
	)	

This matter comes before me pursuant to an agreement entered into between the State of South Carolina Department of Insurance and the above referenced individual, a licensed South Carolina resident insurance producer.

Upon review of this matter, I hereby find as fact that Mr. Dwayne K. Stephens, while licensed to do business as a resident insurance producer within South Carolina, wrote two policies and signed the delivery receipt without the knowledge or consent of the insured. Mr. Stephens fully acknowledges his wrongdoing and understands these types of actions can ultimately lead to the suspension or revocation of his license to transact the business of insurance as producer in South Carolina, following a public hearing at the Administrative Law Court, pursuant to SC Code Ann. Section 38-43-130 (Supp. 2005).

After the initiation of an administrative proceeding by the Department against Mr. Dwayne K. Stephens, the parties agreed to submit the entire matter to me, along with their specific recommendation, for my summary decision, rather than to proceed toward a formal administrative hearing. The consensual recommendation was that, in lieu of the Department seeking to revoke respondent's license, he would waive his right to a public hearing, pay a negotiated and consensual administrative penalty in the amount of \$500.00.

After a thorough review of the record, and pursuant to my findings of fact, I hereby conclude as a matter of law, that Dwayne K. Stephens violated Section 38-43-130 (A), (C), and (10) of the South Carolina Code of Administrative Laws. As a result, I can now take administrative disciplinary action against his insurance producer's license. However, under the discretionary authority provided to me by the General Assembly within SC Code Ann. § 38-2-10(2)(Supp.2005) and carefully considering the recommendation of the parties, I hereby impose against respondent an administrative penalty in the amount of \$500.00 dollars, which he must pay within thirty days from the date of receipt of this Consent Order. Failure to follow our instructions would result in the immediate revocation of his licensing privileges without any further disciplinary proceedings.

This administrative penalty has been reached by the parties as a result of negotiation and compromise, in view of the absence of a negative record or complaints within respondent's history, and it is made in consideration of his assurances that in the future he shall exercise more caution and fully comply with the Insurance Laws of South Carolina.

This penalty includes all expenses related to the investigation of this matter as provided in § 38-13-70 of the South Carolina Code of Administrative Laws. The parties expressly agree and understand payment of the agreed-upon penalty shall constitute full accord and satisfaction of this matter. By his signature upon this consent order, Dwayne K. Stephens acknowledges that he understands that this administrative disciplinary order is a public record subject to the disclosure requirements of the State of South Carolina's *Freedom of Information Act*, S.C. Code Ann. §§ 30-4-10, *et seq.* (1991 and Supp. 2005).

Nothing contained within this administrative order should be construed to limit, or to deprive any person of any private right of action under the law. Nothing contained within this administrative disciplinary order should be construed to limit, in any manner, the criminal jurisdiction of any law enforcement officer or judicial officer. Nothing contained within this administrative disciplinary order should be construed to limit the statutory duty of the Director of Insurance, pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 38-3-110 (4) (Supp. 2005), exercised either directly or through the Department of Insurance, to "report to the Attorney General or other appropriate law enforcement officials criminal violations of the laws relative to the business of insurance or the provisions of this title which he considers necessary to report."

It is, therefore, ordered that Dwayne K. Stephens shall, within thirty days from the date of this consent order, pay through the South Carolina Department of Insurance an administrative penalty in the amount of \$500.00 dollars.

It is further ordered that a copy of this consent order be immediately transmitted to the National Association of Insurance Commissioners for distribution to its member states and a copy be placed in Mr. Stephens' licensing file.

This consent order becomes effective as of the date of my signature below.

Februar /3, 2007 At Columbia, South Carolina Meson Logman
Eleanor Kitzman

Director

I CONSENT:

Way of K. Stephens

Printed Name

Agent

Address: 129 Jigsaw Road

Summerville, South Carolina 29485

Dated this 22 day of January 2007.